**Title:**

**BABA: men and fatherhood in South Africa**

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**Abstract:**

Baba: Men and Fatherhood in South Africa provides answers to some of the most difficult questions about fatherhood in South Africa: Who is a father? What does it mean to be a father? Is it important for fathers to do more for children in a world that assumes that mothers take the primary parenting role? Do different people understand fatherhood in different ways? What evidence is there of new fatherhood styles emerging in South Africa? Authors from a range of backgrounds and disciplines break new ground as they explore the centrality of fatherhood in the lives of men and in the experiences of children. They show how fathers’ involvement contributes to the well-being of children. The authors argue that men can make a major contribution to the health of South African society by caring for children and producing a new generation of South Africans for whom men will be significant by their positive presence rather than by their absence or their abuse.

In this collection, authors examine the conceptual and theoretical questions posed and attempt to map the field. In the second section, fathers and fatherhood are examined from an historical perspective, showing how race and class have shaped fatherhood in South Africa, and how understandings of fatherhood have changed over time. In the third section, authors discuss the way in which fathers appear in the media, how men as fathers are often ignored or portrayed in narrow ways which inhibit alternative forms of fatherhood emerging. In the fourth section, authors offer answers to how men experience fatherhood and what obstacles bar men from expanding their engagement with children. Finally, the book offers examples of local and international programs that have been initiated to promote fatherhood and to work with fathers.

**Keywords:**

MEN

FATHERHOOD

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- Public
In South Africa, Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of June. It is not a public holiday. South Sudan

Traditionally, in the Kathmandu Valley, the south-western corner is reserved for women and women-related rituals, and the north-eastern is for men and men-related rituals. The worship place for Mata Tirtha Aunsi ("Mother Pilgrimage New Moon") is located in Mata Tirtha in the south-western half of the valley, while the worship place for Gokarna Aunsi is located in the north-eastern half. Literature on fatherhood in Africa is relatively sparse, despite the fact that interest in men's influence on children's lives has grown enormously over the last 2 decades. Making use of scholarship on fatherhood and masculinity mainly from South Africa, together with insights from studies in related areas from other parts of the continent, this chapter outlines some of the determinants of fatherhood in southern Africa. It highlights the role of social and economic changes in shaping how men enact fatherhood, together with an emphasis on social fatherhood in African social and family systems. Fathers, fatherhood and masculinity in South Africa Robert Morrell. On being a father and poor in southern Africa today Francis Wilson. The demographics of fatherhood in South Africa: An analysis of survey data, 1993-2002 Dorrit Posel and Richard Devey. The importance of fathering for children Linda Richter. Fatherhood in historical perspective. Migrancy, family dissolution and fatherhood Mamphele Ramphele and Linda Richter. Fathers without amandla: Zulu-speaking men and fatherhood Mark Hunter. Men and children: Changing conceptions of fatherhood in Drum magazine 1951-1965 Lindsay Clowes. Representations and roles. The father in the mind Graham Lindegger. Where have all the fathers gone? Media(ted) representations of fatherhood Jeanne Prinsloo.